

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method to change development of a plant or plant part compared to the wild-type plant or plant part, ~~which said method comprising: comprises~~ increasing or decreasing expression in a plant or plant part of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence and/or increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity in a plant of a CDC27A protein.

Claim 2 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein said increased or decreased cdc27a expression, CDC27A protein level or CDC27A protein activity, is effected by recombinant means and/or by chemical means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, ~~claim 1 or 2~~, comprising introducing into a plant, a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a gene and/or capable of increasing or decreasing activity and/or levels of a CDC27A protein.

Claim 4 (Original): Method according to 3, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is a cdc27a nucleic acid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid is ~~preferably~~ from a dicotyledonous plant, ~~further preferably from the family Brassicaceae, more preferably the nucleic acid sequence is from Arabidopsis thaliana, most preferably as represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3 or a portion thereof or sequences capable of~~

~~hybridising therewith, or a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 or a homologue, such as a homologue having at least, 47%, 48%, 49%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, 99% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO 2, or a derivative or active fragment thereof.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 3, ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is an allelic variant of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence or wherein said CDC27A protein is encoded by an allelic variant.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 3, ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is a splice variant of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence or wherein said CDC27A protein is encoded by a splice variant.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 3, ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is introduced in a sense direction into a plant.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 3, ~~any of claims 3 to 8~~, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a constitutive promoter.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein said changed development is selected from changed differentiation, changed rate of development, changed organ formation, changed organ size and/or number, and/or changed reproductive characteristics, relative to the wild-type characteristics.

Claim 11 (Original): Method according to claim 10, wherein said changed differentiation is accelerated differentiation or wherein said changed rate of development is accelerated rate of development or wherein said changed organ formation is accelerated organ formation.

Claim 12 (Original): Method according to claim 10, wherein said changed organ size and/or number is increased organ size and/or number, such as increased number of leaves, increased number of flowers, increased number of seeds, increased size of the stem, increased size of the leaf or increased total biomass.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 10, wherein said changed reproductive characteristic is changed flowering characteristic, compared to the wild-type; ~~such as an changed period of time to reach flowering, preferably early flowering, or such as increased number of flowers, increased number of seed pods, increased number of seeds.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Method for the production of a transgenic plant having changed development, compared to a wild-type plant of the same plant species, ~~which~~ said method comprising: comprises:

introducing into a plant, a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a *cdc27a* gene and/or capable of increasing or decreasing activity and/or levels of a CDC27A protein; and optionally

cultivating the plant cell under conditions promoting regeneration and mature plant growth.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): Method for generating plants having changed plant development, when compared to wild-type plants of the same plant species, ~~which said~~ method comprising: ~~comprises the steps of~~:

Growing a plant with increased or decreased expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid sequence and/or having increased or decreased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to the wild-type plants, and

Crossing said plant of (a) with a plant of interest; and

Producing progeny of the cross, and optionally

selecting said progeny with said changed development

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, ~~any of claim 1 to 15~~, comprising the introduction into a plant of a construct comprising,

a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a cdc27a nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;

one or more control sequence capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and optionally

a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): Plant ~~obtainable~~ obtained by ~~[[a]]~~ said method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~, ~~which~~ plant has changed development, when compared to corresponding wild-type plants of the same species.

Claim 18 (Original): Plant having changed development when compared to the corresponding wild-type plant, wherein said plant has in at least one cell increased or

decreased expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence and/or has in at least one cell increased or decreased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to a plant of the same plant species.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Plant according to claim 17, ~~claim 17 or 18~~, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, ~~further preferably a cereal~~, and/or wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, poplar, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): Plant part, ~~preferably a harvestable plant part~~, a propagule or progeny from a plant according to claim 17, ~~claim 17 to 19~~.

Claim 21 (Original): Genetic construct comprising,  
a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing or decreasing expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing or decreasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;

one or more control sequence capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and optionally

a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): Genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is a *cdc27a* nucleic acid, ~~preferably from a dicotyledonous plant, further preferably from the family *Brassicaceae*, more preferably the nucleic acid sequence is from *Arabidopsis thaliana*, most preferably as represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3 or a portion thereof or sequences capable of hybridising therewith, or a nucleic acid sequence encoding an~~

~~amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 or a homologue, such as a homologue having at least, 47%, 48%, 49%, 50%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, 99% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO 2, or a derivative or active fragment thereof.~~

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): Genetic construct according to claim 21, ~~claim 21 or 22~~, wherein said control sequence is a constitutive promoter or at least a part thereof.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): Plant or plant part comprising a genetic construct according to claim 21, ~~wherein said any of claims 21 to 23, which~~ plant or plant part has changed development.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A food product derived from ~~[[a]]~~ said plant or plant part according to claim 17 or from a part of said plant. ~~any of claims 17 to 20 or claim 24.~~

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a product derived from a plant or plant part according to any of the claims 17 to 20 or claim 24 in~~ An animal feed and or food comprising said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of a plant or plant parts according to any of claims 17 to 20 or claim 24,~~ A method for the production of one or more enzymes and or pharmaceuticals, said method comprising:

producing said one or more enzymes or pharmaceuticals with said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): One or more industrial ~~Industrial~~ enzymes ~~and or~~ pharmaceuticals produced by ~~using a plant or plant part~~ the method according to claim 32.

Claim 34 (New): Plant according to claim 18, wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 35 (New): Plant part, a propagule or progeny from said plant according to claim 18.

Claim 36 (New): A food product derived from said plant according to claim 18 or from a part of said plant.

Claim 37 (New): A food product derived from said plant or plant part according to claim 24.